

REMARKS

A final Office Action was mailed on June 3, 2003. Claims 1 – 3 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 3 are amended. No new matter is introduced. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, in Applicants' specification at page 7, line 35 through page 8, line 9.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PRIORITY CLAIM

Coincident with filing the present patent application on September 29, 1998, Applicants filed a declaration claiming priority from Japanese Patent Application 10-128835, filed on May 12, 1998. Applicants also filed a certified copy of the priority document at that time. Acknowledgement of the claim and filing of the certified copy was not provided in the Office Actions of July 3, 2002 and December 10, 2001. In a Response to Office Action of January 24, 2003, Applicants respectfully requested the Examiner to confirm and provide acknowledgement of the claim and filing of the certified copy in a next Office Action. No such confirmation was provided in the Office Action of June 3, 2003.

Applicants respectfully repeat their request for confirmation and acknowledgement of their priority claim and filing of the certified priority document.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 103

Claims 1 – 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior art (AAPA) in view of German Patent No. 4,333,004 to Wolfgang et al. Applicants amend claims 1 and 3 to further clarify the nature of their invention, and respectfully traverse this rejection.

As claimed for example in Applicants' claim 1, Applicants claim an information processing method for use with an SDL execution unit described in a specification and description language (SDL), an external environment description unit described in a programming language other than the SDL, and an adapter having a pseudo internal signal generator and a queue manager, and an operating system, the method comprising the steps of: a) connecting the SDL execution unit and the external environment description unit to each other through the adapter so that signals containing at least one of messages, events and parameters may be exchanged between the SDL execution unit and the external environment description unit through the adapter; b) executing the external environment description unit as a single task of the operating system; and c) executing the task so that the pseudo internal signal generator may convert and transfer the signals between SDL execution unit and the external environment description unit.

With reference to Applicants' FIG. 10, AAPA discloses an information processing method for a configuration including an SDL execution unit, an external environment description unit and an operating system. As acknowledged by the Examiner, AAPA fails to disclose Applicants' "adapter that includes a queue manager, connecting the SDL execution unit and external environment description unit through the adapter such that messages, events or parameters are exchanged between them, assigning a single task by the operating system and executing the task so that the pseudo internal generator may transfer the signals between the SDL execution unit and the external environment description unit" (emphasis added). The Examiner suggests that these missing limitations are taught by Wolfgang.

Wolfgang discloses a method for routing a signal from a first software component SC 01 to a second software component SC 02, by means of a message queue MQ and a monitor MO. The message queue MQ belongs to a user program, and both software

components employ SDL processes (see, e.g., page 2, lines 11 – 13 and page 8, lines 11 - 15 of Wolfgang). The monitor MO monitors events pertaining to the queue MQ (such as writing into the queue by first software component SC 01), interrogates the queue upon completion of an event to invoke an oldest signal, and routes the invoked signal to an identified component (such as second software component SC 02).

While Wolfgang provides a means for efficiently routing signals associated with a user program among software components, unlike Applicants' claimed invention, Wolfgang in combination with AAPA fails to disclose or suggest executing an external environment description unit as a single task of the operating system so that the pseudo internal signal generator may convert and transfer signals between the SDL execution unit and the external environment description unit through the adapter. Moreover, neither of Wolfgang and AAPA disclose or otherwise suggest a pseudo internal signal generator for converting the non-SDL information received from the external environmental description unit into SDL signals to be transferred to the SDL execution unit.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claims 1 and 3 are not made obvious by the combination of Wolfgang and AAPA, and are therefore in condition for allowance. As claim 2 depends from allowable claim 1, Applicants submit that claim 2 stands in condition for allowance for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1 - 3, consisting of independent claims 1 and 3 and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in

condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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